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Dordt College

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Issue 6

An investment in your future or a student-loan debt crisis?

Loans may be a heavy burden, but the long-term benefits might outweigh the debt

Kelly Zatlin
Head Editor

"Student loans are probably the biggest regret I have regarding my decision to go to Dordt," said 2005 graduate, Kathleen Dengerink. "They were my only option to attend and I signed on with very little thought or guidance as to the real long lasting impact they would have on my life."

A number of Dordt students, as well as students across the nation, will graduate in May, finding themselves in the midst of what experts call the "student loan debt crisis." According to the Dordt College Financial Aid office, the average Dordt student will have around \$21,900 of debt when they graduate.

At the moment of graduation, student loans can seem like a heavy burden that will never go away. Graduates may at first regret their decision to take out so many loans for an education, especially in a time when it is difficult to see immediate benefits in a less-than-ideal job market.

Dengerink has seen this struggle and experienced these feelings of initial regret. When she first graduated, Dengerink moved back home with her parents until she was able to find a job. While she did land a steady paying job in the hotel indus-

try, her student loans amounted to about \$30,000.

"My student loans dictated the type of life I could lead," said Dengerink.

While Dengerink had a deference period while she was earning her master's degree in special education, her loans are back and she still feels like they are a "ball and chain." On the other hand though, her loans allowed for her to study abroad in Spain in 2004 and helped finance her Master's Thesis trip to Peru this past year, "experiences that were worth every penny." Now she works for a behavior analyst with children who have autism.

In an article in *Time* magazine about the student loan "debt crisis," the third quarter saw a drop in the collective debt load as well as in mortgage debt. Student loans, however, have been going up rather than down.

According to the *Time*'s article, "we (the United States) added \$23 billion in new debt, and the 90-day delinquency rate rose to 11%, at a time when most other types of delinquencies are going down."

While this may seem like a huge problem, Director of Financial Services at Dordt, Michael Epema, said "I don't think it means much that the student loans debt exceeds other debt. Credit cards tend to measure purchase of things; Student loans mea-



Photo by Aanna Stadem

sure investment in yourself and in your education. I think it is two totally different things...it's like comparing apples and oranges."

Epema claims that the Dordt average debt of \$21,900 is "amazingly low for a four year private." He says that this amount is less than all the state universities in Iowa and in Minnesota, and that our default rate is among the lowest in the nation at 3 percent.

"Dordt students are conservative Christians who take repaying their student

loan obligations seriously," said Epema. "I have the best clientele in the world. They don't borrow unless they have to and they realize that if they borrow, it has to be repaid. Plus, they work really hard to pay it off even sooner than they have to."

Janna Hulstein, assistant director of admissions and '02 Dordt graduate, is just one example of someone who was able to work hard and make routine payments in order to completely pay off her loans in a ten-year period. Overall, her time here

at Dordt meant more than the money she had to pay back.

"I think the experience I had at Dordt prepared me for the jobs I have done since I've graduated," said Hulstein. "And the experience I had socially and the amount that I grew when I was at Dordt was more important to me when I graduated. I think that's when I realized how important my four years here had been. The experience here was immeasurable."

Professors and students discuss how water project could be improved for future



Photo by Nikki Dykstra

Alex Updike
Staff Writer

Throughout the semester, there has been much buzz about the campus-wide water project: what it entailed, the point behind it, and whether it was even worth the effort it required. Now that the water project has come to a close for the students, professors are discussing different ways to improve upon it, in hopes of doing similar campus-wide

projects in the future.

According to Professor Nathan Tintle, the Dordt water project was a "semester-long pilot project where students worked, in interdisciplinary groups, to define and understand the global water crisis, brainstorm and develop a particular solution to the global water crisis and then evaluate other students' proposed solutions."

These solutions aren't

available yet, however. Analyzing of all the projects and information has yet to happen, but that doesn't mean that the goal of the water project was not met. According to Professor Tintle, one main goal of the water project was to give students experience in working with real-world problem solving that would, in turn, give them experience in real-world service in God's kingdom.

Senior Kristin Janssen did not necessarily see the project as such, although she does believe much communal good came from it. "The Eckhardt and 55th always seemed to be packed with water project groups," Janssen said. "Personally, I only knew one of my group members before the project started. I'm not best friends with the other members now, but I probably would not have met them without the water project."

Even though there were strengths to the water project, there are always things that can be improved. And on this point, Janssen and Professor Tintle agree. "Probably the biggest 'growth area' is with regards to communication," Professor Tintle said. He also said that "a related issue, which happens with any new initiative, is getting everyone (students, faculty, etc.) onto the same page with regards to expectations."

On the same topic of improvement, Janssen said, "I just think there's a better way to do the project then assign half of campus to do the project. As a senior, I've completed at least a dozen research projects, made and presented posters, and written final papers. This didn't seem much different than many of those." Janssen says that, as a student, she has passions other than the water crisis, and that in the fu-

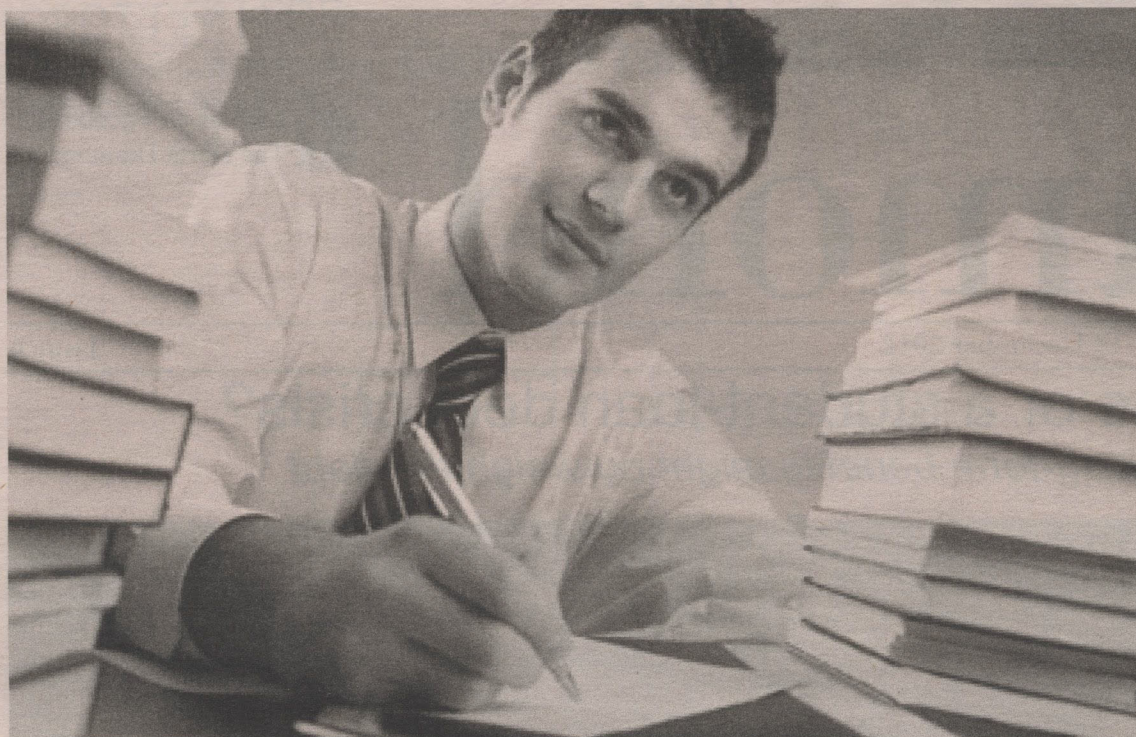
ture, it might be a good idea to try something like this on a volunteer basis in an effort to make sure those involved are passionate, rather than "being forced to become passionate."

In the end, Professor Tintle realized that all projects can be improved upon, and he and the staff plan on implementing changes when a project such as this happens again. And according to Professor Tintle, a similar project will take place in the fall semester next year.

As of now, data analysis has not been done, and findings have not yet been finalized. But whether or not you were involved in the project, and whether or not you enjoyed it, many can all join in expectation and hope that the efforts of so many Dordt students and faculty will help, in some way, with the water crisis that plagues the earth.

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The importance of internships and how Dordt can help you find one



Danielle Richards
Staff Writer

In the last few years, even college graduates with respectable GPAs and a good work ethic have had trouble finding a job after graduation. One way to get a heads-up on the application competition is to find an internship before graduating, but students often

don't know where to begin to get one.

According to Dordt's Career Services, around 30% of Dordt graduates participated in some sort of internship, practicum, job shadowing, or volunteer work related to their major before graduating. Many departments, such as engineering, business, and social work, require some

sort of internship or practicum for graduation.

"Internship programs at Dordt are unique—It's primarily handled through the departments," said Director of Career Services Chris DeJong. "Even if the department doesn't offer one regularly, a student could still do an internship and get academic credit."

To start finding an inter-

ship, DeJong suggests first talking to your department internship coordinator, the name of whom is available through Career Services or on Dordt.edu's Career Services section under the Services and Support tab. He also suggests checking out collegecentral.com.

Students may also find individual internships or programs through their own connections. Before listing these experiences as internships, however, a student must make sure the work criteria meets NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers) regulation for qualifying as an internship.

Individual internships, or internships not attained through a Dordt department, might not be able to be considered an official internship and might not count for academic credit. In order to be counted for an official Dordt internship, students should check with their department internship coordinator to confirm that it meets learning objectives and includes evaluations, presentations, and supervision.

But even if a student's internship does not meet these objectives, the work may still be quite valuable when it comes to a future job search. According to DeJong, employers may count these unofficial internships as they would a part-time job in a related area. These work experiences also give students connections within their fields in case future jobs open or students need references.

"In future years, students may be seeing more paid internships hit the market, and unpaid internships may even be subject to legal ramifications if they don't meet certain requirements," said DeJong.

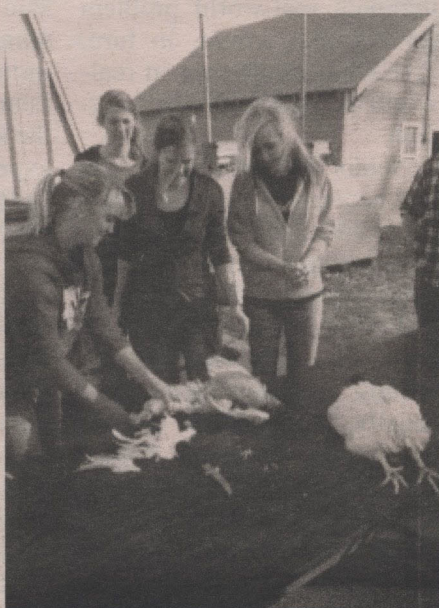
Other beneficial experiences to help a student stand out on a resume are programs like Chicago Semester, Licensing (such as EMT or CPR certification), or published work in a related field.

Food Science class learns about food production by raising and processing chickens

For the second year in a row, Dordt's core Food Science class, filled with students from all different majors, had the opportunity to raise their own chickens, butcher them, and cook them for a meal. Here are a few photos from the "processing" event, which took place before Thanksgiving break.



Photos by Kelly Zatlin

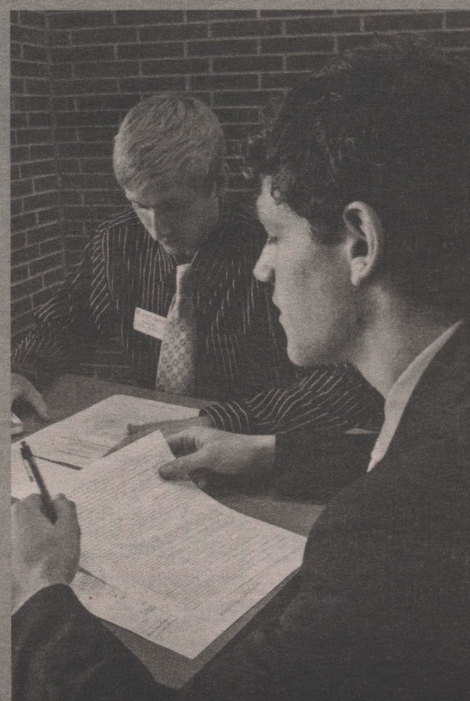


Symposium Update

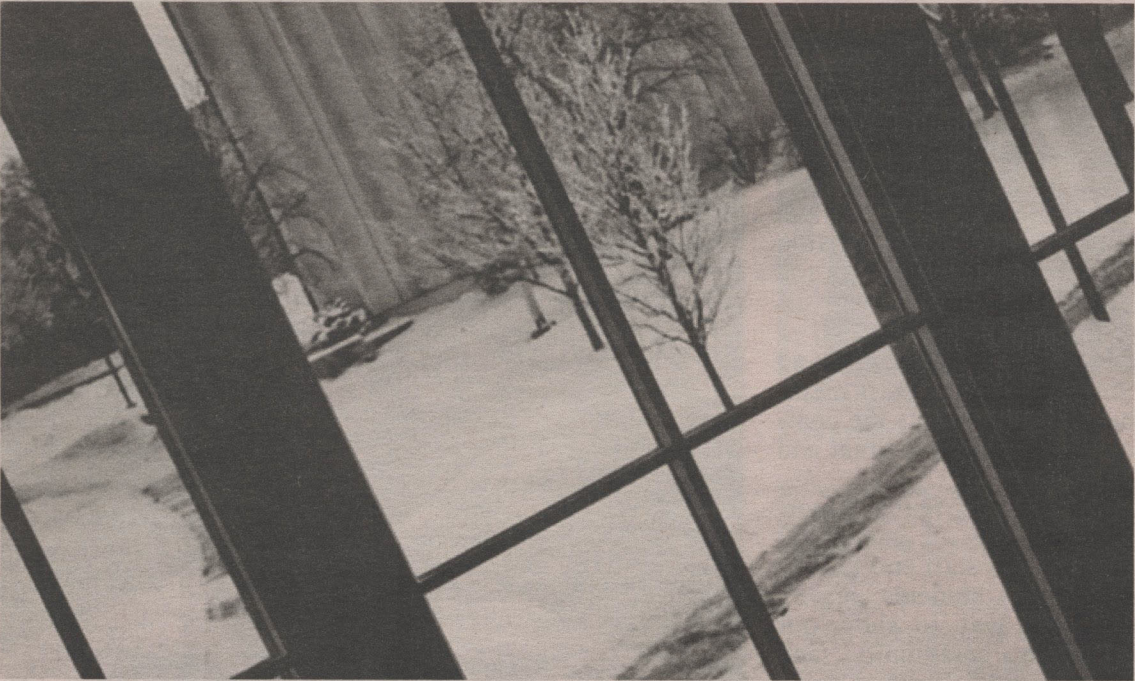
Have you ever wondered why Dordt does something a certain way? Maybe even why it does something at all? Come and ask your local student symposium members! We are here as your advocates and representatives among the administration of Dordt. We will answer your questions, voice your concerns, and pass on your praise! So far this year we have been busy with club funding requests and discussing current parking lot hours and open hours. But we would love to hear more from the students! What should we be talking about during our meetings each week? Shoot us an email (Symposium@dordt.edu), text our hotline (256-262-7967), or talk with us in person! Also, be sure to check out our website! (homepages.dordt.edu/symposium)

Until next time,

Stephen Olson
Student Symposium Press Representative



Weather predictions are seemingly unpredictable this coming winter



Adam McDonald
Editor

Winter has arrived on campus and the first snowfall is on the ground. With icy winds and single digit temperatures, it's usually easy for experts to predict winter conditions, but not

this year.

"We have an equal chance of above or below normal temperatures this year," said State Climatologist Harry Hillaker. "If you read between the lines, however, it seems we may have below normal temperatures."

According to Hillaker, the precipitation will probably stay south of Iowa, or at least Sioux County, but this year marks an odd year where winter predictions are difficult to make.

Experts predict weather by looking at the Pacific Ocean and tropical regions

and comparing two major currents: El Nino and La Nina. El Nino is a warm ocean current that flows along the equator from the date line and south off the coast of Ecuador at Christmas time. La Nina is the same as El Nino, except instead of a warm current, it's much colder.

If El Nino is more dominant, warmer weather is expected. If La Nina is more dominant, colder weather is expected. According to Hillaker, the currents are usually predictable at this point, but about once every three years, it's difficult to tell which one will become dominant.

"The outlook won't be clearer as time goes on, but historically the weather leans toward La Nina," Hillaker said. "But that's not much to go on."

But no matter what this winter holds, it's imperative to be prepared for any

type of condition. The Iowa Department of Transportation has a few winter tips in order to stay safe for the coming season: Make sure your vehicle is in good operating condition for winter time driving, take time to find out about the weather and road conditions, use good driving skills to avoid losing control of your vehicle, and operate safely around snow removal equipment.

They also suggest keeping a sleeping bag, a first-aid kit, bottles of water, and extra clothes in your car, as well as making sure you have plenty of fuel at all times. This is especially important for Dordt students traveling home for winter break.

Giddy-on-up over to Dordt's newest club: The Saddle Club

Amber Vis
Staff Writer

Dordt has added the Saddle Club to its list of many activities and clubs this year. Kristina Heflin, president of the Saddle Club, is excited for its future. According to Kristina, the club was created "to provide an opportunity for Dordt students to express their enthusiasm and interest in horses, as well as provide a fun, educational environment for learning about new aspects of the equine industry."

The group meets about once a month and includes students who have little to no experience with horses, to students who know all the ins and outs of the equine world.

Heflin makes sure to include all the members, no matter what their level of former knowledge is.

Liz Boender, a Dordt junior and member of the Saddle Club, joined this group because her previous experiences with horses caused her to have "a simultaneous love and fear of horses."

"Through Saddle Club, I hope to gain more knowledge and confidence with horses," Boender said. "So far, I like where the club is heading. Although attendance to events is relatively small right now, we have a very devoted president who is passionate about her love of horses, which makes the times together very educational and fun."

Kristen Raygor, also a



Photo by Emily McFarland

junior and a member of the Saddle Club, joined because she realized that, although she enjoys riding horses, she

doesn't know much about them. "Saddle Club will give me an opportunity to learn a wide range of things, starting from basic body parts to just how to understand horses," Raygor said.

The group had their second meeting on December 8, and despite the cold weather, Raygor said, "We learned truly valuable basic information about horses that I think will be useful for when we first ride."

Members of this group have already learned a lot. They started off by learning the differences between horse breeds, how to properly groom and maintain a horse, and the difference between essential terms such as "gelding, mare, filly, and colt."

Next semester, Heflin hopes to take the club out

to drive some horses and a wagon. "We will probably discuss some training theory and visit some training and breeding facilities, as well as spend some time with an equine vet," Heflin said.

Heflin wanted to ensure that people know this club is for everyone: "We have members who haven't touched a horse before joining this club and others who have ridden their whole lives. Everyone is welcome, no matter the skill level, knowledge, or experience. Also, don't just think this is a club for girls... a lot of the top riders in the nation are men!"

If you are interested in joining and would like updates for next semester, email Kristina Heflin at krstnhfl@dordt.edu.

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Features

Aaron Baart reflects on Dordt's spiritual growth over the past four years

Anna Stadem
Staff Writer

After working with Dordt for nearly four years, Aaron Baart, Dordt College Dean of Chapel, is encouraged as well and excited about the spiritual growth he's seen and continues to see around campus.

"(The campus) is catching up to ... the Holy Spirit," Baart said. "I'm a spectator of what God is already doing."

As Baart's job changed from chapel speaker to Dean of Chapel in 2009, he said that he was already seeing God "stirring the waters" and transforming the students' spiritual lives through an increased involvement in Campus Ministries.

"When I came to Dordt, I felt like my primary job was to help create the platform and structures to catch up with the radical call of the gospel that the students were already feeling and sensing. [That was] a big part of what drew me to this position in the first place; I'm completely blessed and fortunate to be invited to be a part of that."

Baart expressed a deep interest and anticipation for the seniors — they were freshmen when he first began speaking at chapel — preparing to graduate: "People come in (to Dordt) with a sensible, subdivision home with a white picket fence picture of what they'll do when they're done. In the time that they're here, [students] imagine something

bigger, more substantial, more kingdom-oriented."

David Miedema, a senior, said he has experienced growth in his spiritual life while attending Dordt; his excitement was clear as he shared the fact that he sees people looking forward to going to chapel at 11 a.m. in the middle of the week.

"My faith has definitely matured and grown. I think we're having individuals really step up as leaders (who) are leading this community (and) helping a college-wide push to campus ministry," Miedema said.

Dordt's chapel is not mandatory, yet, every Wednesday, it normally has more than 600 people — at times, 1,000. In 2008, however, chapel-goers were averaging 75-80 people, Baart said. He contributed this shift to the change in class times, the service structure, and the overall vision.

"(The faculty) decided not to make chapel mandatory. (They) decided to make it significant. The vision was to have chapel be a centering conversation," Baart explained.

His response: "I can get behind that. Sounds like fun!"

Baart's response goes much further than simply enthusiasm; the action he takes in his preaching and ministering around campus takes a different route than some may expect: listening.

"I try to ask a lot of (questions) and listen — figuring out where are our hurts,

where are our needs. When you are asked to preach, you are asked to give a voice to a conversation that God's already having with his people; you're not saying something new, really, you're just asked to give a voice to the questions and the discussion (people) are having with the Lord," Baart said.

Emily Vande Griend, a Dordt College graduate and Student Services staff member, said she thinks the community of Dordt is great and essential.

"I think it's really important that we all gather together ... as staff and faculty along with students; it's an awesome way to show our Christian community and be engaged," Vande Griend said.

Vande Griend said she also noticed the shift in student involvement on campus: "From when I was a student to now working here ... I can tell there's been more passion and participation in worship."

When asked if his personal faith had grown while at Dordt, Thaddeus Van Essendelft, a sophomore, immediately responded, "definitely."

"I've been making my faith more my own; Dordt provides opportunities to help you grow," Van Essendelft said.

Not only has Baart seen growth in campus involvement, but also healing within the student body. He shared a story from this semester of a group of students admit-



ting to harmful addictions. Baart's eyes shone as he explained the brokenness and healing these students experienced as they were able to "break those chains for the first time ever."

"I'm not trying to create concepts or talk about new things; I'm talking about present reality," Baart said.

Justin Knot, a Dordt graduate, said he has seen a "huge change" on campus. "I think the biggest thing is that the campus has become more relational," Knot said.

He continued and said

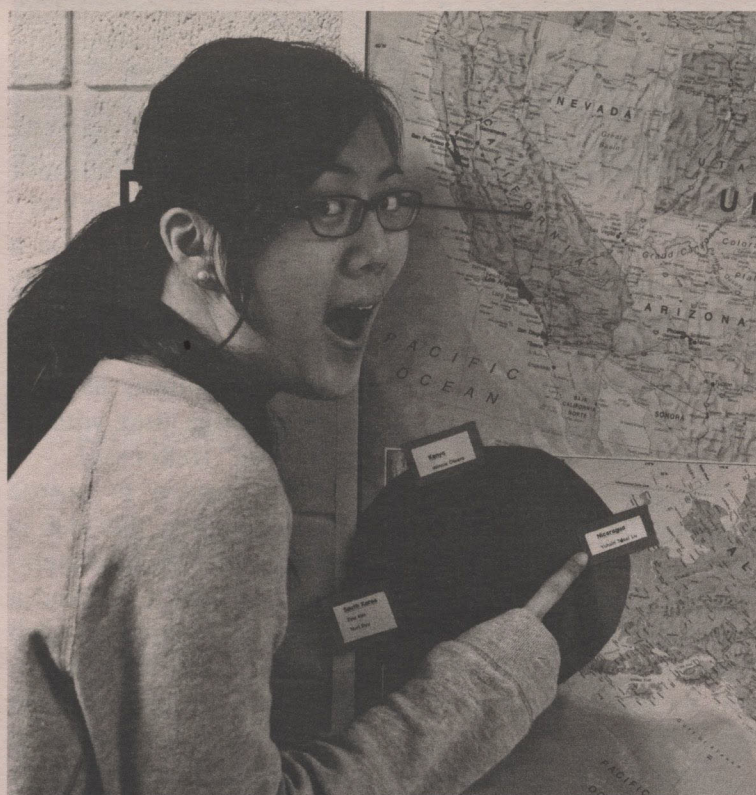
that campus ministries have become "more focused on inviting everyone to come" and creating "a platform where we are able to speak directly to God."

Some faculty members have told Baart that "Dordt College has never been healthier than it is right now," he said.

"What else do you do but say thank you? Those aren't things you can create," Baart said. "We've just been really fortunate. I think God's asking us to do new things."

International Introduction: Nicaragua

For years, international students have felt blessed to call Dordt home. However, language, other cultural barriers, and even apathy, often prevent these students from being warmly welcomed into the Dordt student community. In this new feature section, we hope to introduce the Dordt community to a different international student each week with the hope of bridging the gap between international and non-international students that is often so evident around campus. Finally, it is our hope that this section will remind the community of God's call to have a heart for ALL of His nations.



Kristin Janssen
Staff Writer

Yuhsin Tsai may not be the traditional Nicaraguan student, but the 20-year-old freshman has resided in the Central American coun-

Photo by Emily McFarland

try for all but the first few months of her life and the past two semesters at Dordt. Tsai attended Nicaragua Christian Academy (NCA), along with a couple other Dordt alumni and current students.

Dordt was a pretty easy

choice for Tsai. She knew people here, the financial package looked good, and she knew she wanted to attend a Christian school. Deciding on her major, however, has been a little more complicated. Currently a graphic design major, Tsai is considering switching to Spanish education.

In addition to Spanish, Tsai also speaks fluent English and quite a bit of Taiwanese with her parents, both natives of Taiwan. Tsai herself was born in Costa Rica, but moved with her parents to Nicaragua because her father's international business connections moved him there. Both of Tsai's parents are now involved in international business in Nicaragua.

However, Tsai's family is pretty alone in Nicaragua. Most of her extended family still lives in Taiwan, while her older sister works as a chef at Disneyworld in Florida and her younger twin

siblings both attend NCA.

Before coming to Dordt, Tsai shared many of the same fears as other international students. The cold winter was one of her greatest fears, along with making friends and speaking English well.

At NCA, English is taught and spoken, but Tsai was still scared that her English wouldn't be good enough. "It's been surprising, though," Tsai shared, "many Americans comment that I don't have an accent and think I was born in America."

With the cold winter upon us and English clearly not a problem, Tsai's only remaining fear was that she would not make any "good American friends." However, Tsai was once again surprised to find that this was not a problem. She described herself as a "very happy and outgoing person" who came to Dordt "excited to meet people," so those qualities are what she believes helped her

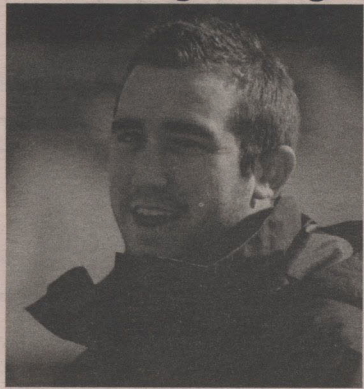
be warmly welcomed into Dordt's community, along with the friendly people at Dordt College.

Although Tsai's transition into life in America and specifically at Dordt College was easy, she believes transferring in January put her at a disadvantage. Because she did not enter at the beginning of the academic year, she was not able to participate in freshmen events like WOW Week and missed out on meeting as many people as freshmen do during those activities.

Overall, Tsai believes her experience at Dordt has been one of encouragement and a rich welcoming into the community. She encourages other non-internationals at Dordt to continue welcoming other international students by approaching them and inviting them along in whatever they are doing, because international students like many of the same things as American students.

Opinion

Surviving College



Ryan Lapadula
Columnist

Well, my time here at Dordt College is coming to an end, so I see it fit to bestow some of my hard-learned wisdom upon all of you underlings and upperclassmen. Just know that this is only advice, so don't start thinking that I am telling you how to live your life. However, this advice is great, and if you don't take heed to what I say, you will certainly have a tougher time at college.

First off, take electives. While you may think that you need every single class available in your major, taking all of them could make you insane. We've all seen those engineering majors who take ridiculous sounding classes and spend their lives in the library. In fact, I am sitting next to one right now; he does not look like he is enjoying college. I bet he would like to take a class of his choice that doesn't meet in the science building, maybe a class on later British literature with Professor Dengler? Yeah, he looks like a Coleridge guy.

Just branch out; as cliché as it sounds, college is about trying new things. And sadly, some people spend four years here and never take a class simply because they want to.

My next bit of advice pertains to the kitchen. The peanut butter and jelly sandwich is a cornerstone of college cuisine. If you like crunchy peanut butter like I do (if you don't, then I truly pity you and your horrid taste), then you are fully aware that crunchy style peanut butter rips up a slice of bread when you spread it. The solution: microwave it! It didn't take an engineering major to figure this one out (although I did just discover this technique literally last week). As you would with butter, put a dollop of peanut butter on a plate and nuke it for like 15 seconds – it spreads like a condiment and tastes worlds better when it is a little bit warm. You are welcome.

Finally, I say this: party. I don't mean to go and get blackout drunk in some hick's basement; I mean have plenty of social gatherings on the weekends, on or off campus. Some of my fondest memories of college are those of homemade Italian dinners on Sunday evenings, cookouts to say goodbye to summer and then to welcome spring, and the Superbowl party that was held in my Kuyper apartment last winter. Social gatherings – with more people than just your roommates – are how friends are made and how good friends become great friends.

So there it is, three points of advice that will help you through college. With some ingenuity and a little bit of experimentation and imagination, you can totally change your college experience. Thank you, Dordt, for these unforgettable years. I pray that this school will be as good to each of you as it was to me. Amen?

That I am not my own, but belong... wherever the Lord Places Me



Jennifer Van Der Hoek
Columnist

it through the tearful goodbyes and painful drive to the Schipol airport in Amsterdam on May 15, 2012.

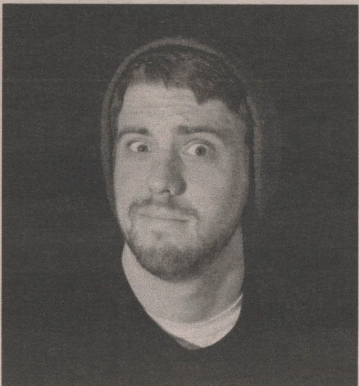
When I arrived in Sioux Center in August for what I had prepared myself to be my final round at Dordt College, I was determined to make it the best semester it could possibly be. While I missed the times and the people in Zwolle, I was excited to spend the next four months with those I had received so much support and love from back here while I was abroad. And besides, I would be going back to the Netherlands four and a half months later. Soon enough, I would be back where my heart's at rest for the first portion of student teaching.

Then everything changed. Not far along in the semester, I received an e-mail saying that I needed to meet with professors in the education department to discuss "concerns with student teaching in the Netherlands." My

heart sank as the thought of not going back first surfaced. "This is not what I intended; there's no way I'll go anywhere except for the Netherlands. That's where I need to be." The truth is, whatever I intend is not always right; it's not always what I need. About a month and a half after the initial scare of not going back to the Netherlands and four options later, I received my student teaching placement: Santiago, Dominican Republic (no, that's not in the Netherlands).

I find myself frequently missing Europe, and I know that's not ever going to go away. It was the experience of a lifetime, and I never want to forget that. However, I also never want to forget that there are plans bigger than mine. While teaching in the Netherlands may be my dream, the Lord has other plans for me now, and I must remain patient, faithful, and diligent as He reveals His plan to me. It's hard at times, especially when I have my heart set on something, but realizing the world doesn't revolve around me and my plans for myself is huge. Perhaps it seemed as though my only comfort leaving Zwolle was that I would be back, but that's not where my trust and comfort should lie. Instead, it should rest in the fact that I am not my own, but belong wholly and solely to the Lord, whose plans far exceed mine. With that mindset, I believe my heart can be at rest wherever I am placed to share my talents and faith.

Why are we so gosh-darn busy!?



Alex Updike
Columnist

then becomes, "What in the world do we do about it?" Well, I think there are a few things that can be done to lighten the load of our ten-ton schedules without having to feel like a lazy pile of doo-doo about it.

First, we can recognize that God gives gifts and talents to all of us in different ways. Sure, some people's gifts and talents lead to a busy schedule with lots of things to do and ways to display them for everyone to see. But that doesn't mean their talents are better than anyone else's. The girl who spends time shaping clay or painting a canvas has no less talent than the guy who can put a ball through a hoop. It's just that one person is celebrated and cheered for while the other tends to be ignored. And this is in no way a "shot" (pun very much intended) at basketball players, or athletes in general for that matter. Maybe as a society we should learn to equally appreciate every way in which God has gifted his children.

Second, we can trust. We can trust that the person God has made us to be and the things he has given us to be involved in are good and they are shaping us into the person we need to be for the amazing

plan he has for us. And not only are these things good, but they are what is best for us. I mean, God can totally see into the future, and I don't know about you, but I can't do that. So I'm going to try my best to trust him with future-telling powers with my life more than little old me, the guy who can't even see how he's going to get to the end of the week.

And finally, we can enjoy what we do have. I would be willing to bet that most of us here at Dordt, if we really think about it, have been blessed quite a bit. Concentrating on how you aren't "good enough" or what you want to be instead of what you are, will cause you to miss out on the great things you already have. So next time you catch yourself in the deadly throgs of comparison, think about some of the wonderful things you do have and enjoy those.

So as I sit here on a Sunday evening, writing a column about business that was due on Friday, irony comes to mind. It's ironic that in a culture that praises those who are involved and busy, business and involvement can be the very things that cause us to miss out on the greatest things in life. So here are my words of wisdom; listen up because I don't have many. If you're busy, that's great. Use your talents to glorify God. But don't become so busy that you sacrifice relationships or forget about the great things God has given you. And if you aren't as busy or involved as you think you should be, it doesn't reflect on you as a person. I guarantee that God has gifted you, and I guarantee he has a wonderful plan for your life. Enjoy watching that wonderful plan unfold and revel in the life your Creator has chosen for you.

Kids say the Darndest Things!



Rachel Mulder
Columnist

"Don't say a wrath answer!"

It was the end of a school day, and the students in the preschool classroom I was observing were quite rambunctious. They were gathered on the carpet, the teacher trying to decide what activity would be best for this particular group of four year olds. She decided on having them review the ABC Bible verses they had learned so far this year. They recited them all together and ended with Proverbs 15:1, "A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger."

The teacher talked to them about what it means to say nice things to other people and why we should say kind words. Each student raised his or her hand to suggest how we can be nice to our friends and what a gentle answer sounds like. One boy then replied, "Yeah, you don't want to say a wrath answer!"

He's right on. A wrath answer wouldn't be very polite, considering the definition of wrath is "strong, vengeful anger" and is one of the Seven Deadly Sins.

Unfortunately, anger is deeply rooted in all of us, and it's caused by sin. It's self-centered and causes the breakdown of marriages, families, and friendships. I John 4:19-20 says, "We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

We need to ask God to rid us of any anger and always be looking for opportunities to build one another up. I Thessalonians 5:11 says "Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing."

Wrath is also associated with selfishness. Selfishness seems to be something many of us struggle with around the Christmas season. We get so caught up in ourselves and what we want and what is going wrong, but forget to focus on loving our families and remembering the real reason we have a three week break between semesters.

Let Psalm 19:14 be your prayer now and always: "May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to you, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer."

Sports

Dordt basketball still aims for the national tournament



Photo by Anna Stadem

Justin Pastoor
Sports Editor

'Tis the season when the DeWitt gym is filled to its brim with fans, all meeting several times a week with the common goal of cheering for the men's and women's basketball teams as they hope to make a run in the GPAC and the ultimate goal of reaching the national tournament.

Coach Ross Douma is in his fourth year at the helm of the men's basketball team and is looking to continue from the successful season the team had last year, making it to the final eight in the national tournament before falling to McPhearson, and ending the Defender's season at 30-5.

One of the biggest strengths that this team boasts is the experience of returning players. This year's team returns eight of the first nine players in the rotation, including

all five starters from last year - Cliff Warner, Austin Katje, Trevor Wolterstorff, Kyle Lindburg, and Jordan Vogel, as well as sixth Man of the Year Chris Sievers, and senior Shawn Keizer. Underclassmen Tyler Wolterstorff, Rees Beever, and Nathan Rindells round out the front ten.

Coach Douma is content with how the season has gone so far, but knows that there is always room for improvement.

"We have had some good wins coupled with a disappointing loss or two," said Douma. "We know we have not played our best basketball yet and are confident we will continue to get better as the season progresses."

The men's team is currently sitting at 9-3 overall, with a 3-3 record in the GPAC, including a big comeback win over rival Northwestern, ending on top with a 64-56 win.

The women's team boasts an interesting combination of experience with fresh blood also being placed in the lineup. Coach Craig looks to upperclassmen Kara Van Dyke, Brianna Spronk, Kayla Broekhuis, Jamie Kok, and Jessica Jelsma to lead the team, while inserting freshmen Jasmin Schelhaas, Emily Neuman, and Mycah Hulst to bring youth to the lineup.

"So far we've had a lot of fun games and wins, but also our share of losses as well," said Coach Steimsma. "We have and will continue to improve a lot; we have a very deep and athletic team."

After a victory over Martin Luther, 62-42, the women's team is now sitting at 7-7 and 3-3 in the GPAC. Both teams play at Morningside on December 12, and a home game against Briar Cliff on December 15.

All Conference and Scholar highlights

Compiled by Justin Pastoor

This semester past semester for Dordt Athletics has been a successful one, and this was reflected in the number of individual awards and All-Conference or All-American selections. From six different sports, including football, volleyball, men and women's soccer, and men and women's cross country, 39 individuals were named to an All-GPAC team, as well as 23+(cross country) named NAIA Scholar Athletes, 1 individual, Kayla Gesink, being named an All-American, and the women's cross country team finishing in the top 10 in the nation. Coach Greg Van Dyke was also named the GPAC Coach of the Year for women's cross country. Listed below are the award recipients:

Football All Conference:

Owen Reinalda, Trai Pickney, Seth Vande Voort, Sam Ashmore, Ray Cleveland, Vanoy Harris, Micah, Applegate, Jonathan Gardner, Josh Nollmeyer, Jordan Huisman, Patrick Visscher, Kyle Scholten, David Griess, Dan Fennig, Josh Van Kempen

Women's Soccer All Conference:

Meghan Warners, Heidi Ferkranus

Men's Soccer All Conference:

Brady Van Holland, Eric Grootenboer, Jon Brinkerhoff, Josh Brinkerhoff, Cameron Stuive, Scott Van Wylen, David Riley, David Miedema

Women's Cross Country All Conference:

Lauren Opp, Merissa Harkema, Kayla Byl, Abby De Vries, Renee Buikema, Katie Bonnema

Men's Cross Country All Conference:

Ryan Tholen, Nathan Jackson

Volleyball All Conference:

Kayla Gesink, Kayla Broekhuis, Danae Geels, Katelyn Schuller, Lindsey Floen, Loy Sahr

Football Scholar Athletes:

Jordan Huisman, Jon Luetchens, Patrick Visscher, Sam Verhulst, Seth Vande Voort

Volleyball Scholar Athletes:

Jana Van Zanten, Loy Sahr, Danae Geels, Jocelyn Bousema, Kayla Broekhuis, Lindsey Floen, Bekah Posthuma

Men's Soccer Scholar Athletes:

Josh Brinkerhoff, Alex Geylense, David Miedema, David Riley

Women's Soccer Scholar Athletes:

Aubrey Kloosterhouse, Meghan Warners, Elise Wedel, Shantelle Gritters, Kathryn Heynen, Kolette Heynen, Lindsay Lenderdink

Men's Cross Country Scholar Athletes:

Ryan Tholen, Chris Postma, Tim Bierma, Stephan Olson

Women's Cross Country Scholar Athletes:

Hannah Orlow, Merissa Harkema

Ask an Athlete



Justin Pastoor
Sports Editor

Name: Anthony Hallum

Class Year: Senior

Major: K-12 Physical Education

Sport(s) Involved: Football

Position(s): Corner

Where are you from? Visalia, CA

How did you first become involved in sports?

I was about 6 years old when I realized I had no job, a bad milk addiction, and was playing house with two girls. I looked myself in the mirror and said, "I need to change my life." So I joined t-ball.

Why did you come to Dordt?

One of my high school coaches talked to me about the school and then everything fell into place.

Strictly with sports, of your four years of football, what were a couple of the highlights?

Beating Waldorf with a shut-out at home junior year was one of my favorite memories. Other than that I remember Josh VanKempen's touchdown runs and my memories of playing with all of my

friends and fellow seniors.

Favorite professor at Dordt and why?

Jeff Schouten. I've taken a number of classes with him and some of the most memorable content I learned was taught in his class.

What is the first thing you would change at Dordt?

The fact that you have to be 22 to move off campus. Or married...

A word of advice to the freshmen?

Don't procrastinate. It's not worth it. Also, invest in a nice jacket.

What event in history would you go back in time to see?

I would want to see the look on Christopher Columbus' face when he saw Native Americans for the first time.

What is the first thing you would do if you had no financial restrictions?

Open a charity for Dordt student's tuitions.

What is the number 1 song played in your iTunes?

Blue- Eiffel 65

Five things on your bucket list:

Visit Europe, go skydiving, win a national hot dog eating contest, go to the moon, and win a marathon without training.

What are your plans after Dordt?

After Dordt I'll be looking for a job teaching PE, hopefully somewhere warm.

Arts and Entertainment

"Nair: The Band" ... if that's even their real name



Justin Pastoor
Staff Writer

Every once in a while, there comes a musical group who makes a resounding impact on culture; the way the Rolling Stones and The Beatles did

back in the 1960s. One new group on Dordt's campus is known as "Nair: The Band," and while they aren't exactly The Beatles, the band is composed of five musicians who truly know what they are doing. "Nair: The Band," formerly

Photo by Emily McFarland

known as "Ben and the Jerries," consists of lead singer Ben Sytsma, guitarists Daryl Bruinsma and Landon Tillemma, bassist Caleb Buum, and drummer Darin Lammers; five individuals from various places and points of educa-

tion on Dordt's campus. Most of them have a fairly long experience in music; Darin on the drums in 5th grade, Caleb playing upright bass and tuba along with playing the bass, and Daryl and Landon picking up guitar in high school. Singer Ben is the exception; he has no formal voice lessons and has never been in any choirs. He just loves to sing and enjoys his time with the band.

The band first got together after they failed to make the NCDC finals last year. So rather than perform there, they played cover nights at The Fruited Plain and 55th Ave. on back to back nights. Since then, they've continued to play different shows around Sioux Center.

The band plays a genre of "alternative/blues/indie/rock-pop." They play a variety of different types of music, just as long as they all enjoy it. Original material may be on the way, but it lies in the hands of Buum if he stays on campus next semester.

Buum also feels that he is the most "legit" musician of all

of them because he is the only one with a full sleeve tattoo.

"The true universal symbol of a true rock 'n' roller is having the tattoo," said Buum. "I decided to get more than one because it was a situation where it wasn't rock 'n' roll enough to just have one. It's all about the rock 'n' roll. At the end of the day, we're just going to roll up our sleeves and lay down some heavy power chords."

One interesting aspect of this group is the continual change in names from concert to concert. Before "Nair: The Band," they were "Ben and the Jerries." For the next show they might be known as "The Power Chords," and eventually, "Ben Systma and the Ben Sytsma Band ft. Ben Sytsma @Ben-Sytsma."

What it boils down to is a group of great guys who play great music and have the time of their lives while doing so. If any readers have the opportunity to watch them play another show, they shouldn't hesitate at all. Go out for a night and listen to some fine music presented to you by "Nair: The Band."

Instrumental Concert

Rachel Mulder
Staff Writer

The Dordt College Music department held an end-of-the-semester Instrumental Ensembles Concert on Friday, December 7, 2012.

Three bands participated in this evening of music, including the Campus-Community Band, Chamber Orchestra, and Concert Band. Many music students participate in more than one of these groups, so this evening kept them on their toes.

Each piece of music was beautifully performed and each section ended with a loud, cheery Christmas piece. "Sleigh Ride," "Suite of Carols" including "Away in a Manger" and "Wassail Song," and "A Rhapsody on Christmas

Carols" were performed.

Between performances, Conductor Bradley Miedema would introduce each piece by providing the audience with some background information, which was helpful for those who are musically illiterate.

Miedema also took time to acknowledge the seniors for whom this was their last concert with a Dordt College ensemble. Ashley Jones, Michelle Palmer, and Mary DuMez were some of those recognized and thanked for their commitment to the music department.

This concert was a musical conclusion to the first semester, as students look forward to the Dordt College Choral Ensembles Christmas Concert on Friday, December 14.

Maria Bouwkamp sings her way to success

Lauren Bird
Staff Writer

When Maria Bouwkamp first came to Dordt College, she saw music as merely a hobby. She had no idea that it would blossom into much more than that and create opportunities that would help expand the use of her talent.

Bouwkamp, from Pella, Iowa, is a senior majoring in music performance and pedagogy. In the past few years, she has had many musical opportunities that have helped her stand out among her peers at Dordt College.

With the help and guidance of her vocal instructor, Deb Vogel, Bouwkamp has had many opportunities to sing in choirs overseas, to compete in vocal competitions, and to learn more about her voice and the ways of music.

"I got a chance to attend a music school in Austria this past summer," said Bouwkamp. "I took some classes and lessons under German teachers and maestros. It was an emersion of learning."

In addition to studying abroad in Austria, Bouwkamp also gained another musical experience when she attended a conference with Vogel and became interested in the audition process and what it was like.

"The maestro at the conference let me sit in on some auditions. I bought some books and sang two songs for him. He said he would keep in touch with me, and while I was in Austria, he got ahold of me and had some opportunities for me," said Bouwkamp.

Bouwkamp took advantage of one of these opportunities, which was to be a part of a choir that would sing Handel's Messiah at Lincoln Center in New York City over Thanksgiving break.

"That was a very hectic weekend," said Bouwkamp. "We practiced from 8:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. for two days and then performed on Sunday. There was only a 30 minute break for lunch; It was an intense learning experi-



Photo by Jordan Edens

ence."

The choir at Lincoln Center was made up of multiple choirs from around the United States, along with single musicians like Bouwkamp. In all, the choir was made up of around 250 singers, from high school students to grad students.

Recently, Bouwkamp also took part in a musical competition. The state-wide NATS, or National Association of Teachers of Singing, competition is held every year at Simpson College in Indianola, Iowa. This was not Bouwkamp's first time participating in a NATS competition.

"I wasn't expecting to get far this year because I hadn't prepared much since I was busy

with my senior recital," said Bouwkamp. "I was just going to have fun and learn from others." But Bouwkamp still made it to the final round. The finalists of the competition take part in a final recital that lasts for a large part of the day.

These experiences mean a lot to Bouwkamp and she attributes her success to her parents and Deb Vogel.

"Mrs. Vogel helped me see my potential and she gives me so much encouragement," said Bouwkamp. "And even though my parents don't know much about music, they've still helped me ask the right questions and remember who I'm singing for. I just have to see where God leads me."



Photo by Nikki Dykstra

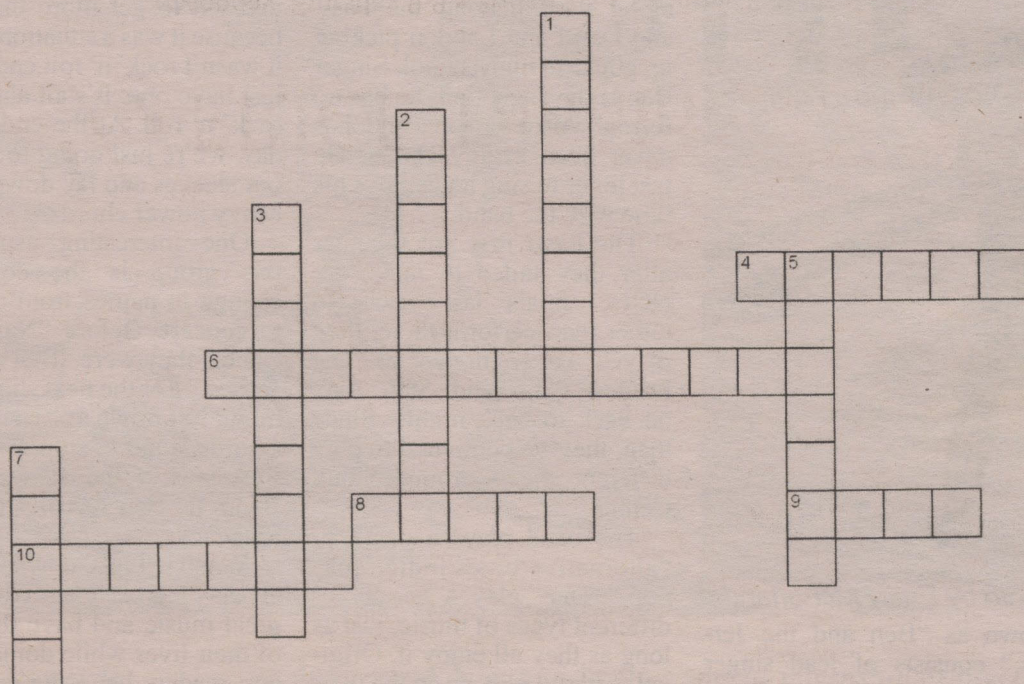
Amusements

Dordt College Crossword Puzzle:

Compiled by Adam McDonald, Co-Editor

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Christmas Time is here



ACROSS

- 4 The Snowman
6 In the movie, "Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer", what minerals was Yukon Cornelius searching for?
8 According to "The twelve days of Christmas", what was given on day 6?
9 What type of tree is a Christmas tree?
10 And a happy

DOWN

- 1 Lead Role in the movie "The Santa Clause"
2 You kiss underneath this plant
3 Have a Merry
5 The most famous reindeer
7 He Comes Down Your Chimney

Be a *Diamond* writer!

If you are looking for another way to get involved on campus that will build your resume and help improve your writing skills, the Dordt *Diamond* is always seeking great writers. The *Diamond* is a bi-weekly publication that strives to inform the student body of what is happening on campus, as well as make them aware of issues off campus that can impact them personally. As a part of the *Diamond* staff, you will write articles, conduct your own interviews, and be introduced to opportunities for leadership on the staff. Being a *Diamond* writer will allow you to meet new people, will expand your professional portfolio, and will help build your resume. If you are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity, feel free to contact the Dordt *Diamond* email account at diamond@dordt.edu or e-mail next semester's editors, Adam McDonald and Hannah DeVries.

Kelly Zatlin, Head Editor

Feature Photo



Photo by Aanna Stadem

"The Dark Knight Rises:" a movie worth every penny

Adam McDonald
Co-Editor

The epic conclusion to the newly revamped Batman trilogy, "The Dark Knight Rises," was recently released on DVD. These movies, directed by Christopher Nolan, have received high praise from people all over the country.

The movie takes place eight years after the Joker and former "white knight"

Harvey Dent had terrorized Gotham. Bruce Wayne (Christian Bale) has become a shut-in. The new Harvey-Dent act has almost purged Gotham completely and left the streets free for law abiding citizens to roam without fear of crime. However, a storm is brewing, one that threatens to tear Gotham apart and make the city the target of the military and the world.

There are no spoilers in this review, so feel free to keep reading. The plot of the movie

is fantastic. Another villain, Bane, comes to Gotham in order to liberate those whom have been, according to him, "wrongfully" imprisoned due to the Dent Act.

With a dynamic cast, "The Dark Knight Rises"' ability to draw viewers in is surreal. I'll admit that when I heard Anne Hathaway was Catwoman, I thought Christopher Nolan was out of his mind. We are talking about the "Princess Diaries" star, after all. She is so wholesome and innocent.

However, those thoughts quickly withered and died the first ten minutes into the movie. Her performance as Catwoman is exhilarating to say the least.

Still, one of the huge issues I had with the casting is the repeat of characters from other Nolan films. Joseph Gordon-Levitt starred in "Inception" as Arthur, and John Blake in "The Dark Knight Rises." Tom Hardy has starred in "Inception" as Eames and is Bane in "The Dark Knight Rises," Cillian Murphy played Robert Fischer in "Inception" and is Dr. Jonathan Crane/Scarecrow in "The Dark Knight." Not to mention Michael Caine, who played Miles in "Inception," and Alfred in "The Dark Knight

Rises." These actors are phenomenal, but with the reputation that Christopher Nolan has, he could virtually have had any actor in Hollywood.

This is my biggest complaint throughout the movie. It just seemed lazy on Nolan's part. But that's neither here, nor there. Overall, this movie is worth every penny to rent or buy. It will make a perfect Christmas gift or stocking stuffer. But don't watch it alone. A movie of this magnitude, of this hype, deserves more than just one person appreciating it.

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